

Maurice O'Connor

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committee. He gave the position much time. He became a personal friend of Grover Cleveland and remained on the committee during Cleveland's second term, the federal appointments for Iowa being usually referred to him for his approval. His keen business sense and Yankee shrewdness served him well in business and in investments and he became quite wealthy. He was a heavy stockholder in and a director of the German Savings Bank of Davenport, and was interested in many other enterprises. He kept his connection with the *Democrat* all these years and at the time of the organization of the Democrat Publishing Company in 1915 he became its president. He had been connected with the paper for over fifty-eight years, and was regarded as the dean of the newspaper profession in America. In late years he was an extensive traveler, having been fourteen times to Europe. He was an accomplished, versatile and forceful man.

ERASTUS B. SOPER was born in Pitcher, Chenango County, New York, September 15, 1841, and died at Kansas City, Missouri, March 20, 1917, being then on his way to his home in Emmetsburg, Iowa, from spending the winter at Hot Springs, Arkansas. Interment was at Emmetsburg. When six years old he came with his parents to Jones County, Iowa. He attended Western College, near Cedar Rapids, and with other young men from that college enlisted in the First Iowa Infantry for the ninety-day period. At the end of that time he enlisted in the Twelfth Iowa Infantry as a private and was promoted until he became captain of Company D of that regiment. He saw four years in active service. After the war he entered Cornell College and was graduated in 1868. He remained with the college some time, teaching mathematics. In 1904 Cornell conferred on him the honorary degree of LL. D. Leaving Cornell College he was for a while in Cedar Rapids in the government pension office and also studying law. He was admitted to the bar in 1870. In 1871 he removed to Estherville and engaged in the practice of law. In 1876 he opened a law office at Emmetsburg and removed there in 1879. His practice extended over many adjoining counties and he was regarded as very successful. He became extensively interested in land and also was interested in several banks in that part of the state. He was active in public affairs and at one time, in the nineties, was a prominent candidate for the Republican nomination for governor. He was a trustee of Cornell College from 1877 and was president of the board for a considerable time. He was chairman of the Shiloh Military Park Commission, and was commander of the Loyal Legion of Iowa. He was a lay delegate to the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1904 at Los Angeles, and again, in 1908, at Baltimore.

MAURICE O'CONNOR was born on a farm near Missouri Valley, Harrison County, Iowa, in 1875, and died at Fort Dodge, Iowa, May 5, 1917. He was graduated from the Missouri Valley High School, attended school a year in Lincoln, Nebraska, attended the Woodbine Normal School and

was graduated from the Law Department of the State University of Iowa in 1898. He had taught country schools during intervals while he was securing his education. He practiced law a short time in South Dakota, then removed to Fort Dodge. His abilities becoming recognized he became partner with J. O. A. Yeoman. After Captain Yeoman's death he was associated with John F. Duncombe and William S. Kenyon, and later with D. M. Kelleher. In 1904 he was the Democratic nominee for attorney-general and in 1912 for judge of the Supreme Court. In 1912 he was a delegate to the Democratic national convention and cast his lot with the Wilson forces. He was strong as an advocate as well as in counsel, and was a brilliant orator.

HENRY STIVERS was born at Middleport, Ohio, October 26, 1849, and died at Osceola, Iowa, April 25, 1917. He came to Osceola in 1869, read law in the office of H. L. Karr and was admitted to the bar on his twenty-first birthday. He practiced law in Osceola for the next ten years. At that time, 1880, he became interested in and the principal promoter of the Des Moines & Osceola Railroad, and later became the road's vice president and superintendent, remaining with it until 1885. During the year and a half preceding this he had been president of the Clarke County Bank, which office he then resigned. In 1885 he became owner and managing editor of the *Osceola Sentinel*, and continued as such a number of years. With his brother, Thomas Stivers, he purchased the *Burlington Gazette*, but only remained with the *Gazette* about a year when he went to Des Moines and became editor of the *Des Moines Leader* and gained state-wide reputation because of his able support of Horace Boies for governor in the 1889 campaign. In 1896 he sold his interest in the *Leader* to Strauss & Dawson and returned to Osceola. He then took over the *Osceola Democrat* and edited it and engaged in farming, in which he had become interested. In a few years he disposed of the *Democrat* and returned to the practice of law, continuing his farming business. He served as mayor of Osceola, and as county attorney of Clarke County in 1913 and 1914. In 1892 he had commenced a collection of the publications of Iowa authors. In 1914 he sold this collection of some 500 volumes to the State Historical Department, where it is now as the "Stivers Collection," being a part of the great collection of Iowa authors and their works. Mr. Stivers was lawyer, business man, farmer, editor, politician, scholar and able man of affairs.

PATRICK J. QUIGLEY was born near Binghamton, New York, June 1, 1837, and died at Dubuque, Iowa, February 28, 1917. He was the son of John and Catherine Quigley, natives of Ireland. In 1847 he migrated with his parents to Dubuque County, Iowa, where they settled on a farm. He was educated in the common schools. In 1854 he began work with a group of surveying engineers in Minnesota and remained with them until 1860, when the death of his father called him home. In 1863 he removed to a farm near Sageville, Iowa, and soon thereafter engaged

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